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December 8, 2006

To: Regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) owners or operators in the State of South Carolina.

From: Ann Clark, Director 
Stormwater, Construction and Agricultural Permitting Division

Re: Qualifying Local Programs (QLPs) for Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control and Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment per SC Water Pollution Control Permits Regulation 61-9 122.44(s)

As the Department continues to work with our municipal partners to implement the stormwater regulations, we should take advantage of the provisions in the regulations that allow for streamlined implementation of these programs. Particularly, I want to draw your attention to the "qualifying local program" (QLP) provision for the management and oversight of stormwater runoff from construction and post construction activities. This provision offers the opportunity to increase administrative efficiency in the stormwater program by formally recognizing local construction management programs that meet or exceed the provisions in SC DHEC NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Large and Small Construction Activities, SCR100000.

The recognition of QLPs eases the burden on construction site operators by providing them with one set of requirements to follow. More fully utilizing this regulatory option would further several important goals:

- ▶ helping the construction industry to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements,
- ▶ encouraging development of strong municipal sediment and erosion control programs, and
- ▶ ensuring that we are efficiently implementing the construction and post construction provisions of the stormwater permitting program to protect water quality.

Please find a fact sheet attached to this memo that provides detailed information on the qualifying local programs provisions in the NPDES regulations. We encourage you to work with the Department to make the greatest possible use of the QLP concept over the next several years. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Mr. Rick Nuzum of my staff at 803 898-4034 or at nuzumjr@dhec.sc.gov.

Thank you